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Letter dated 3 January 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia covering the period from 1 to 30 November 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-30 November 2001), there were just over 19,000 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.

2. During the period under review, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained relatively stable. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued its mission to ensure a safe and secure environment throughout the area.

3. SFOR troops conducted well over 6,000 ground patrols in the area of operations during November and continued to monitor compliance by the Entity armed forces, conduct weapons storage site inspections and consolidations, provide support to the international organizations in theatre and to local authorities, and collect weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

4. Major activities undertaken by SFOR in November included the promotion of an information campaign to reassure the population and deter support for terrorist acts. An operation launched in October to find illegal weapon storage sites, detain persons suspected of illegal activity and seize documents was completed. Two underground bunkers containing military equipment and about 20 caches of ammunition were discovered near Han Pijesak, and one man was arrested by local police as a result of this operation.

5. In addition, SFOR organized a three-day exercise in Tuzla involving 23 Bosnian Serb and 29 Federation paramilitary police and 400 SFOR troops. The exercise, which was observed by representatives of local government, non-governmental organizations, the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the media, was the largest integrated training exercise undertaken and ended with a demonstration of combined civil disturbance control skills.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The situation in theatre remained relatively calm throughout the reporting period, with the Entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. There were no restrictions on the freedom of movement of either SFOR troops or the civilian population.

7. During the period under review, SFOR troops conducted 96 weapons storage site inspections: 34 Bosnian Serb; 35 Bosniac; 18 Bosnian Croat; and 9 Federation.

8. SFOR troops monitored 177 training and movement activities during the reporting period: 72 Bosnian Serb; 90 Bosniac; 4 Bosnian Croat; and 11 Federation.

9. Over the period, a total of 69 mine-clearing activities were monitored: 23 Bosnian Serb; 40 Bosniac; 4 Bosnian Croat; and 2 Federation.

Cooperation with international organizations

10. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United

Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force (IPTF), the Office of the High Representative, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

11. SFOR continues to support the efforts of the Office of the High Representative by providing patrols to monitor the situation in Dobrinja and provided security support on 7 November for the provisional Administrator of the Hercegovacka Banka in Mostar.

12. On 15 November, SFOR held a study day to provide training on the provision of security for major public events based on experience gained earlier in the year during important public events. The training exercise involved 30 military staff, two IPTF officers and two Republika Srpska police officers.

13. Other support provided to IPTF and local police during the reporting period included escorting to prison in Lukavica the person suspected of being responsible for weapons caches recently discovered in Han Pjesak; supporting local police during the reburial in Prijedor of a Catholic priest murdered 1995; and supporting IPTF and Bosnian multinational police in an operation in Kiseljak which led to the arrest of four people for possession of illegal materials and explosives.

14. During the period under review, SFOR provided a secure environment to support the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in its investigations and exhumations in the areas of Goradze, Foca, Kalinovik, Jakarina Kosa and Sarajevo. Three hundred and seventy-two bodies of Bosniacs and Croats were exhumed.

15. SFOR is planning to assist IPTF in training Bosnian police to counter civil disturbances. The training will take place in two phases: the first will take place in January 2002 and the second between March and October 2002.

Displaced persons and refugees

16. SFOR continues to support UNHCR as displaced persons return to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The return of displaced persons and refugees to Republika Srpska and to central Bosnia continues at a slow pace. Tension among ethnic groups, particularly in these two areas, continues to be a matter of concern to SFOR, with reports of an increase in the number of inter-ethnic incidents.

Outlook

17. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains under control.

18. Tension is higher as a result of operations of the United States of America in Afghanistan. Anti-SFOR, anti-NATO, and anti-United States sentiment is apparent among radical segments of the population: anti-American or anti-SFOR graffiti has appeared on buildings in cantons 6 and 10 in Livno and Jaice, and near Kupres and Suica. SFOR, the local authorities and the State Border Service are paying particular attention to any signs of terrorist activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.